(c) There has been a marginal decline *fa* the flow foreign tourist traffic during the last three years. The figures are as follows: —

Year	Arrivals (excluding national of Pakistan and Bangladesh).	Change
1983 . . .	884,731	+2·9
1984 . . .	835·503*	—5·6
1985 . . .	836,908	+0·2

•Revised figures.

(d) The disturbed conditions prevailing in India in 1983 and the major part of 1984 and adverse media coverage in the International press were responsible for the decline in the flow of foreign tourist traffic. ? I^Pfl

(e) The publicity and promotion of India is a continuing activity of the Department of Tourism for which all efforts are made to improve traffic flow from all over the world. During the 7th plan period, some of the major steps to be taken are:

Augmentation of plan funds; consumer advertising through press, TV and Radio; aggressive promotional measures to negate adverse publicity, India has had during the past two years; projecting India not only as a cultural distination but also as a holiday resort by highlighting its winter sports, beaches, wild-life, shop-ing etc; projecting India as a year round Destination; production of new literature with a slant on adventure tourism and holidaying; promoting India as a convention venue; organising high level promotional seminars both in India in and abroad, etc. etc.

*235. *{.Transferred to the \4th March,* 1986].

Declaration of tourism as an industry

/^236. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism has been declared as an industry to enable it to get all facilities granted to industrial units;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Hotel Loan Fund has been floated to finance new hotels under the Two and Three Star categories; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT); (a) The Approach Paper for the Seventh Five Year Plan approved by the National Development Council (NDC) recommended that the Tourism should be accorded the status of an Industry. The State Governments have accordingly been requested to declare Tourism as an Industry so that the concessions available to other industries also become 'applicable to tourism related activities. The State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh have declarfxl tourism as an Industry while the States of Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have declared Hotels as an Industry. The Central Government grants several concessions|incentives for activities connected with tourism, which include exemption of hotels from the MRTP Act, income-tax holiday to new hotels, higher depreciation, Central subsidy for hotels in specified backward areas, interest subsidy on hotel loans advanced by 1FCI and other Central Financial Institutions, foreign exchange incentive quota, concessional customs duty on a number of item imported by hotels for actual use, priority in allotment of telephone|telex connections, LPG, grant of loans at concessionary rates to tourist car operators for purchase of tourist cars and manufacture of tourist coaches, incentive quota to travel agents and tour operators for undertaking promotional tours abroad and import of vehicles (upto two in a year), office equipment etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.